

COUNTY BOROUGH



OF BLACKBURN.

AN INQUIRY

INTO THE EXTENT OF

UNDERFEEDING

*Amongst the Schoolchildren
of Blackburn,*

BY

ALFRED GREENWOOD, M.D.,

D.P.H., ETC.,

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent to the Fever and
Smallpox Hospitals, and Medical Officer to the
Education Committee.*



BLACKBURN :

THE "TIMES" PRINTING WORKS, NORTHGATE.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

51, AINSWORTH STREET,

BLACKBURN,

July 27th, 1905.

To the Members of the Blackburn Education Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

The Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, and Circular Letters of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, together with the Relief (School Children) Order of 1905, have given prominence to the question of underfed school children as an important factor in the national physique.

This Inquiry has been conducted with the object of ascertaining the extent to which underfeeding prevails amongst Blackburn school children at the present time.

During my investigations a number of interesting facts have come to light, which have an important bearing upon the social habits of the working classes of this town.

Various diverse opinions have been expressed as to the number of underfed school children, but I believe that these have been the result mainly of general impressions. The value of a definite investigation, even in one district, with accurate figures, is therefore obvious, and the relief to be obtained for the genuine cases will repay any trouble.

There is no doubt that the numbers of underfed school children vary with certain conditions, such as the season of the year and the state of trade. But, as will be seen later, I have attempted in some measure to allow for this.

The present Report has been divided into the following Sections:—

Section I.— General remarks.

Section II.— The method of investigation.

Section III.—The extent to which underfeeding prevails at present amongst Blackburn school children.

Section IV.—Conclusions and observations as applied to Blackburn.

Finally, I desire to express my appreciation of the willing help given by the school teachers and attendance officers, and of the enthusiastic assistance from my own staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED GREENWOOD.

SECTION I.

General Remarks.

SECTION I.

General Remarks.

An Inquiry into the extent of underfeeding amongst the school children of any district is an extremely delicate one, and requires a great amount of tact, patience, and discrimination.

There are several difficulties, such as the unwillingness of many people to supply information as to the addresses of families where underfeeding is suspected; the hesitation of some parents in answering questions which are of a private nature, such as income and expenditure; the difficulty of obtaining accurate information regarding habits of parents, etc., etc.

Some very interesting observations on the extent of underfeeding of children compelled by law to attend a Public Elementary School appeared in the Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration issued in 1904.

Dr. Eichholz, one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, made a special investigation into the conditions of the Johanna Street Board School, Lambeth, as a type of school in a very bad district, and he considers that 90 per cent. of the children are unable, by reason of their physical condition, to attend to their work in a proper way, while 33 per cent., during six months of the year, from October to March, require feeding.

Figures were also given in the same report showing the number of children fed per week during the weeks the feeding centres were open.

It does not follow, however, that all the children fed at schools and centres would otherwise be underfed.

Dr. Eichholz also made inquiries about Manchester, and was assured that 15 per cent. of the Manchester children are underfed. Dr. Niven, the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, did not give any figures, but expressed the opinion that there was a very large number of underfed children, that the child must be fed at any cost, and that no voluntary agencies could possibly cope successfully with the evil.

On the other hand, the Vicar of Pendleton stated distinctly that not more than 2 per cent. of the children in Salford and Manchester come to school underfed; and in his opinion the question of malnutrition is not nearly so urgent as that of lack of proper physical training and pure air.

Dr. Henry Ashby, of Manchester, nominated by the Royal College of Physicians to give evidence on the subject of nutrition, was inclined to think that most children go to school having had sufficient breakfast.

Therefore, as regards Manchester, there is considerable difference of opinion.

Other views were expressed before the Committee on this question, but were not supported by figures.

Regarding the existing voluntary methods of providing food in London, Dr. Eichholz mentioned certain agencies which spend about £6,100 per annum collectively:—

London Schools Dinner Association.

Mr. G. R. Sims' Referee Fund.

Destitute Childrens' Dinner Society.

East Lambeth Teachers' Schools Dinner Association.

Southwark Childrens' Free Meals Fund.

The work of these agencies was co-ordinated by a Joint Committee on Underfed Children in order to prevent overlapping.

Dr. Eichholz said that the sum contributed by the parents amounted to 5 per cent. in the case of the London Schools Dinner Association, and 25 per cent. in the case of the Destitute Children's Dinner Society.

The Free Meal Fund in connection with the East Lambeth Teachers' Schools Dinner Association is worked by the teachers through the attendance officers, and careful inquiries are made as to the circumstances of each family before a child is given a meal. There are breakfast centres and dinner centres. A child can be given a pint of vegetable soup and a piece of brown bread and a piece of

cake at the cost of 1d. About 2 per cent. of the children pay the full 1d., some pay part of the cost, and the rest nothing; not more than 7 or 8 per cent. pay anything at all.

In Manchester there is a Free-Feeding System, the funds for which are derived entirely from voluntary sources.

In 1902, 139,000 free dinners were given at a cost of £400. Here, also, the circumstances of the family are investigated carefully by the attendance officers, but no attempt is made to recover payment from the parents.

The following paragraphs, taken from the Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, are of much interest :—

359. It seems, further, that in a large number of cases voluntary organisations with the support and oversight of the Local Authority are sufficient for the purpose, and as long as this is so the Committee would strongly deprecate recourse being had to direct municipal assistance.

360. Circumstances, however, do arise which call for more immediate aid, and in which the School Authority, taking into account the difficulty in the way of home provision of suitable food, and the number of children who attend school habitually underfed, are willing to provide regular and sufficient meals, and in such cases the Committee agree with the opinion of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland), that "the preparation and cooking of these meals, where it is found necessary to provide them, ought to be regarded as one of the charges incident to school management."

361. By a differentiation of function on these terms—the School Authority to supply and organise the machinery, the benevolent to furnish the material—a working adjustment between the privileges of charity and the obligations of the community might be reached.

362. In some districts it still may be the case that such an arrangement would prove inadequate, the extent or the concentration of poverty might be too great for the resources of local charity, and in these, subject to the consent of the Board of Education, it might be expedient to permit the application of municipal aid on a larger

scale. As a corollary to the exercise of such powers—which should be by scheme sanctioned by the Board—the law would have to be altered so as to furnish means, as was suggested in evidence, to compel the neglectful parent to take his full share of responsibility, and the Committee are sanguine that a few prosecutions to this end would have a most salutary and stimulating effect.

363. It seems probable that the best way of dealing with many of these children, whose antecedents place them definitely in the category of “retarded,” is by means of special schools of the Day Industrial Schools type, in which feeding would form an essential feature, and the choice between establishing such schools or merely treating children as underfed must be largely left to the Local Authority, after considering all the circumstances, to determine.

364. The Committee, moreover, do not think that children should be made the subject of either experiment without the concurrence of the Poor-Law Authorities, and the funds should be found through the machinery of the Poor-Law, with all due precaution against affixing any unnecessary stigma upon the deserving parent.

365. The Committee deem that by these means the community may be protected from the consequences of the somewhat dangerous doctrine that free meals are the necessary concomitant of free education. Education is a great social need, which individual citizens are, as a rule, not able to provide for their children on a sufficient scale; but food, like clothing and lodging, is a personal necessity, which in a well-ordered society, it is not inherently impossible for parents to provide; and the effort to supplement their deficiencies, and to correct the effects of their neglect, should aim, in the first instance, at the restoration of self-respect and the enforcement of parental duty.

The following are copies of the Circular Letter of the Local Government Board, dated 27th April, 1905, together with The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905, and also of the Circular Letter of the Board of Education dated 28th April, 1905, on the subject of the foregoing Order.

UNDERFED CHILDREN AT PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD CIRCULAR LETTER TO BOARDS
OF GUARDIANS.

Local Government Board,

Whitehall, S.W.,

27th April, 1905.

Sir,—

I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that attention has of late been drawn to the cases of children attending public elementary schools who are without adequate nourishment.

In connection with this matter the question has been raised as to the powers and duties of Boards of Guardians and their Officers in relation to children in the circumstances referred to.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIANS.

The Guardians and their Officers are, of course, only concerned with the relief of destitution. but if a child in any Poor-Law Union is in fact destitute of necessary food, and application for relief is made to the Guardians or the Relieving Officer by the child or by any responsible person on his behalf, it is the duty of the Guardians, and, in a case of sudden or urgent necessity, of the Relieving Officer, to afford such relief as may be requisite, subject to the Regulations issued by the Board or their Predecessors with regard to the administration of relief which are in force in the Union. And this is so, even although the parent is able to provide the food required, if in fact he fails to provide it.

The Board realise, however, that where the child resides with a parent who is able to supply the requisite food but neglects to do so, the cost of the relief given ought in general, and especially where the neglect is habitual, to be borne by the parent, and not to fall on the ratepayers. The object would be secured if the relief was given on loan, and the cost was recovered from the parent. This could not

be done in all cases, but in order to meet the object in view as far as possible, the Board have issued a new Order called "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905," dealing with relief to children in public elementary schools. Copies of the Order are enclosed, and for convenience of reference it is also printed as an Appendix to this Circular.

EFFECT OF ORDER.

The Order deals with cases where an application is made to the Guardians directly or otherwise, or to a Relieving Officer, by the Managers, or by a Teacher duly empowered by the Managers, of a Public Elementary School, or by an Officer duly empowered by the Local Education Authority, having for its object the allowance of relief to a child under the age of 16 who is in course of attendance at a Public Elementary School. Such an application is defined as a "special application" by Article I. of the Order, but as will be seen from Article VII. the Order only deals with a special application made where a child to whom it relates is not blind or deaf and dumb, and resides with his father and his father is not in receipt of relief other than relief given in accordance with the Order.

Where a special application is made to the Guardians and the case is not one of sudden and urgent necessity, Article II. of the Order requires them to take steps to ascertain whether relief to the child is or is not rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food for the child. If the Guardians are satisfied that it is, then any relief or the cost price of it given in accordance with the order must be given or considered as given by way of loan. If, however, the Guardians are not satisfied that the relief is rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food, it will be in their discretion to determine whether or not the relief shall be given on loan. In any case in which the Guardians decide to give relief in accordance with the Order and the relief is given on loan, it will be incumbent on them after making their order upon the application and before the relief is given, to cause all practicable steps to be taken to notify to the father the fact that the relief will be given or considered as given by way of loan. This will afford the father an opportunity of undertaking to provide without relief all that the circumstances of the case require. If he in fact makes this provision, it will obviously be unnecessary for the relief to be given.

The Article further provides that where the relief is given otherwise than on loan, a notification shall be made to the father before the relief is given, so that in this case also the father may have an opportunity of undertaking to make proper provision for giving food to the child.

In neither case can the Guardians allow relief for a longer period than one month, but the application can be renewed if necessary.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FATHER.

Where a special application is renewed within a short time, say six months after the expiration of the period for which the relief has been given, and further relief has to be allowed, or where within this period special application is made and relief is given in respect of some other member of the same family, and the cause of the application is the habitual neglect of the father to provide food, the Board think that the Guardians should consider whether the case is one in which proceedings could be taken against the father, either under the Vagrancy Act, 1824, or the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904. If they proceed under the former Act they must be able to show that the father is able to maintain his family by work or by other means and that he wilfully refuses or neglects to do so, and that in consequence the child has become chargeable. If they proceed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, they must be in a position to show that the father is a person who has the custody, charge or care, of the child and who neglects the child or causes him to be neglected in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering or injury to his health.

CASES OF SUDDEN AND URGENT NECESSITY.

Cases of sudden and urgent necessity in which a special application is made to the Guardians do not come under Article II.; nor do cases of sudden or urgent necessity in which a special application is made to the Relieving Officer. These are dealt with in Articles III. and IV., which provide that the relief shall be given on loan, but that the Guardians or the Relieving Officer shall at the time of making the order or giving the relief, as the case may be, or as soon as possible afterwards, take all practicable steps for notifying to the father the fact that the relief is given by way of loan.

EFFECT OF ORDER ON EXISTING REGULATIONS.

It is evident that where relief is given by way of loan in cases of

the kind now under consideration, the provisions of any Orders and Regulations in force in the Union, which require that where relief is given the able-bodied father shall be relieved only in the Workhouse or be set to work by the Guardians, cannot be observed. Article V. consequently dispenses with these requirements in such cases. It must not be understood that the Board desire that provisions of the kind should be relaxed where they can be complied with, but it appears to them that they are inapplicable in the cases in question, and that in lieu of them reliance must be placed on the fact that the relief will only be given on loan, and that it will be the duty of the Guardians, under Article VI., to take proceedings for the recovery of it, except in any special case in which the Guardians report the circumstances to the Board and the Board approve of their abstaining from taking proceedings. The object of the exception is to meet cases in which it would be obviously useless to institute proceedings. Where application is made to the Board for approval under this Article, it will be necessary that the circumstances, which, in the opinion of the Guardians, justify the application as regards the particular case, should be fully stated.

RECOVERY OF RELIEF GIVEN ON LOAN.

The relief given to a child in pursuance of a special application will be relief to the father, and under section 8 of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, 1848, the relief given on loan or the cost price of it can be recovered from the father in the County Court, whilst section 59 of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, 1834, affords a means by which any master or employer from whom any wages are or may become due to the father may be required to pay to the Guardians the amount of any relief given on loan or so much of it as from time to time remains due or unpaid.

LIMITATIONS OF ORDER.

It will be observed that the Order does not apply to a child who is blind, or deaf and dumb, or in any case to the mother or any other relative of the child besides the father. It has been thus framed in view of the terms of section 56 of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, 1834, and of the limitations in section 58 of that Act. Moreover it only applies where the child is resident with the father.

The Order is not intended to interfere with the exercise by the Guardians of their existing powers and duties. For instance, the

case of a child who resides with a father in receipt of relief does not come within the Order; but it would be incumbent on the Guardians to afford relief to the child if in fact he was destitute of necessary food, and this circumstance was brought to their knowledge.

MODE OF GIVING RELIEF.

The precise way in which relief should be given to underfed children in consequence of special applications under the Order must obviously for the most part depend on the local circumstances. It is important that the relief should not be given in money where this can possibly be avoided, and that the arrangements made should be such as to secure to the utmost extent practicable that the child shall himself get the full benefit of the relief ordered. Where the relief is given by the Relieving Officer on his own responsibility of course it cannot be given in money.

The Guardians will no doubt find it desirable to avail themselves of any charitable organisation which exists in the locality for the provision of meals, and to arrange with them for the supply of food to the child on the presentation of a ticket.

In other cases an arrangement might be made with some shop-keeper to supply the food on presentation of an order from the Relieving Officer.

The Board realise the difficulties of the subject, but they trust that Boards of Guardians, particularly those of populous Unions in which cases of underfed children more frequently occur, will endeavour to co-operate with the Local Education Authorities in dealing with really necessitous cases, whilst exercising due discrimination so as to avoid the pauperisation and consequent disfranchisement of parents who ought not to be brought under the Poor-Law.

Copies of this circular are enclosed and the Board request that one of them may be given to each Relieving Officer. If further copies are required for this purpose the Board will be prepared to supply them. A Parliamentary Paper containing this circular will be issued, and copies of it can then be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from Wyman & Sons, Limited, 109, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, E.C.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S. B. PROVIS,

The Clerk to the Guardians.

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL ORDER.

THE RELIEF (SCHOOL CHILDREN) ORDER, 1905.

To the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the several POOR-LAW UNIONS, and of the several OUT-RELIEF UNIONS in ENGLAND and WALES:—

And to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS by certain General Orders and other Orders made by the Poor-Law Commissioners, and the Poor-Law Board, and by Us, the Local Government Board, Regulations have been prescribed with respect to the Relief of the Poor;

And whereas by section 56 of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, 1834, it is enacted that all relief given to or on account of the wife, or to or on account of any child or children under the age of sixteen, not being blind or deaf and dumb, shall be considered as given to the husband of such wife, or to the father of such child or children, as the case may be;

And whereas by section 58 of the said Act, it is enacted that any relief, or the cost price thereof, which shall be given to or on account of any poor person above the age of twenty-one, or to his wife, or any part of his family under the age of sixteen, and which We by any Rule, Order or Regulation declare or direct to be given or considered as given by way of loan, and whether any receipt for such relief, or engagement to repay the same, or the cost price thereof, or any part thereof, shall have been given or not by the person to or on account of whom the same shall have been so given, shall be considered and the same is by the said section declared to be a loan to such poor person;

And whereas it is expedient that such provision as is herein-after set forth be made with respect to the relief ordered or given in certain cases:

NOW THEREFORE, in the exercise of Our Statutory powers in that behalf, and in relation to each Poor-Law Union, and to each Out-Relief Union in England and Wales, We do hereby Order, Declare and Direct as follows:—

ARTICLE I.—In this Order, unless the contrary intention appears—

The expression “the Guardians” means, as the case requires, the Guardians of the Poor of a Poor-Law Union, or the Guardians of the Poor of an Out-Relief Union:

The expression “the Orders and Regulations” means and includes all Rules, Orders, or Regulations made by the Poor-Law Commissioners, the Poor-Law Board, or by Us, with respect to the relief of the poor, and applicable for the time being to a Poor-Law Union or to an Out-Relief Union: and

The expression “special application” means an application made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, or to a Relieving Officer by the Managers, or by a Teacher duly empowered by the Managers of a Public Elementary School, or by an Officer duly empowered by the Local Education Authority, and having for its object the allowance of relief to a child under the age of sixteen who is in course of attendance at a Public Elementary School.

ARTICLE II.—(1.) Where a special application is made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, and the case is not one of sudden and urgent necessity, they shall take steps to ascertain whether the allowance of relief to the child to whom the special application relates, is or is not rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food for the child.

(2.) Any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, if the Guardians are satisfied that the case is one of such habitual neglect as aforesaid, and, if the Guardians are not so satisfied, may be given or considered as given by way of loan, where the Guardians determine that the relief shall be so given or shall be considered as so given.

(3.) Where the Guardians determine to give relief in accordance with this Order, and where, by virtue of any provision of this Order,

or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, the relief will be given or considered as given by way of loan, the Guardians shall, after making their order upon the special application, and before relief is given in compliance with their order, cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief will be given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

(4.) Where the Guardians determine to give relief in accordance with this Order, but the relief will not by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, be given or considered as given by way of loan, the Guardians shall, after making their order upon the special application, and before relief is given in compliance with their order, cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief given to or on account of the child will be considered as given to the father.

(5.) The Guardians shall not, without a fresh application, allow any relief in pursuance of this Article for a longer period than one month.

ARTICLE III.—Where a special application is made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, and the case is one of sudden and urgent necessity, any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, and the Guardians, at the time of making their order upon the special application, or as soon as possible after the relief is given, shall cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief is given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

ARTICLE IV.—Where a special application is made to a Relieving Officer, and the case is one of sudden or urgent necessity, any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, and the Relieving Officer shall, at the time of giving the relief, or as soon as possible after the relief is given, take all such steps as are practicable for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates the fact that the relief is given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

ARTICLE V.—Where by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, any relief or the cost price of any relief given upon a special application will be given, is given or will be considered as given by way of loan, nothing in the Orders and Regulations shall apply or have effect so as to require that, as a condition of the giving of the relief, the able-bodied father of the child to whom the special application relates shall be relieved only in the Workhouse, or shall be set to work by the Guardians and be kept employed under their direction and superintendence so long as he continues to receive relief.

ARTICLE VI.—The Guardians shall take proceedings for the recovery of any relief or the cost price of any relief which, by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, is given or is considered as given by way of loan, except in any case in which the Guardians report the circumstances to Us, and We approve of their abstaining from any such proceedings.

ARTICLE VII.—Nothing in this Order shall apply or have effect in relation to any case, other than that of a child who is not blind, or deaf and dumb, who resides with his father, and whose father is not in receipt of relief, other than relief given in accordance with this Order.

ARTICLE VIII.—This Order may be cited as “The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905.”

Given under the Seal of Office of the Local Government Board, this Twenty-sixth day of April, in the year One thousand nine hundred and five.

(L.S.)

G. W. BALFOUR,

President.

S. B. PROVIS,

Secretary.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CIRCULAR LETTER.

Board of Education,

Whitehall, London, S.W.,

28th April, 1905.

Sir,—

The Board of Education desire to call the attention of Local Education Authorities to the enclosed Circular issued by the Local Government Board to the Guardians of the Poor in England and Wales.

The object of the Order referred to in the Circular and appended to it is to adapt certain provisions of the Poor-Law to the relief of children who may be sent to Public Elementary Schools by their parents in a state of destitution for want of sufficient nourishment.

The Order provides that upon application made by certain persons specified in the Order to the Guardians or to the Relieving Officer, relief given to a child under 16 may be considered as given by way of loan to the father.

Such application is described in the Order as a *special application*, and Local Education Authorities should note that it may be made—

To the Guardians, or

To the Relieving Officer,

and may be made—

By Managers, or

By a Teacher duly empowered by Managers, or

By an Officer duly empowered by the Local Education Authority.

The nature and effect of the special application are sufficiently set out in the Order and the accompanying Circular, but there are certain special points to which the Board of Education desire to call the attention of Local Education Authorities.

A child may be sent to school without proper nourishment (1) because the parents are permanently impoverished, or (2) because temporary illness, loss of employment, or other unavoidable causes, have for the time incapacitated the parents from making necessary provision for the child, or (3) because the parents, though capable of making this provision, have neglected to do so.

The Board feel that the second of these groups of cases will provide the most suitable field for the valuable work done by the various voluntary and charitable agencies which exist for the provision of meals for children who are sent to school hungry.

Cases coming under the first or third category may be proper subjects for a *special application* to the Guardians or Relieving Officer.

Unless the case is so urgent that it must be dealt with immediately, special application should only be made after careful inquiry into the circumstances by those making the application, in order to ascertain to which class the case belongs.

Local Education Authorities who empower an Officer, or Managers who empower a Teacher, to make special applications under the order, should be careful to inform the Guardians and Relieving Officers of the Poor-Law Union concerned of the name of the Teacher or Officer so empowered.

It should be borne in mind that in areas where distress and want are habitual or frequently recurrent, Local Education Authorities by encouraging and promoting the establishment of proper organisations for inquiry where distress is alleged, and for distribution of relief where relief is needed may greatly facilitate the treatment of cases of destitution, under whichever class they fall.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

H. M. LINDSELL.

To the Local Education Authority.

SECTION II.

Method of investigation in the Blackburn
Inquiries.

SECTION II.

Method of Investigation in the Blackburn Inquiries.

The first object was the collection of a list of houses in which it was suspected there might be underfed or neglected school children.

In order to obtain this information, I addressed the following letter to each of the 52 Public Elementary Schools in the Borough.

[COPY.]

Public Health Office,

51, Ainsworth Street,

Blackburn,

June, 1905.

Head Master,

..... School,

Blackburn.

Dear Sir,

I am at present making an investigation into the number and causes of Underfed School Children in Blackburn; and I should esteem it a very great favour if you would kindly give me all the information in your power regarding this very important question.

I also wish to assure you I realise fully that the investigation is a very delicate one and requires handling with great care and tact, but I am taking such precautions that everything shall be carried out satisfactorily to all concerned.

Therefore I trust that you will be able to co-operate with me in this matter.

Please give this information to the other departments.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED GREENWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Also the School Attendance Officers, the Police, and others informed me of houses in which there might be children who were underfed or neglected. Moreover, I paid special attention to streets with the prefix "Back."

In all, 540 such addresses were supplied to me.

The houses were then visited, and inquiries made with tact and discrimination.

In order that the results of these inquiries might be uniform in character, I drew up the following form which appears to cover the essential points, and which was filled up at each of the 540 houses.

UNDERFED CHILDREN.

Name of School

Date of Visit

Underfed Children

NAME.	ADDRESS.

NO. IN FAMILY.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	WAGES.

NO. OF BEDROOMS.	CONDITION OF HOUSE.
	HOW FURNISHED

Rent of house and other outgoings }
 than for clothes and food }

Attendance at school :

Regular

Irregular

Condition of child or children on visit

Has any relief (public or private) been received ?

Officer's private opinion as to cause of underfeeding

(a) Illness of child

(b) Medical attendance

(c) Inability of parents to work or obtain work

(d) Habit of parents—laziness ; alcoholism

(e) If father out of employment, last time }
 time he received *any* remuneration }

Any other remarks of Officer :

The following is a List of Streets in which these 540 cases were investigated, arranged alphabetically :—

Abbott Street.	Canning Street.
Accrington Road.	Canterbury Street.
Addison Street.	Carlisle Street.
Alker Street.	Castle Street.
Almond Street.	Chadwick Street.
Amberley Street.	Chapel Street.
Amelia Street.	Charles Street.
Angela Street.	Charnley Street.
Anvil Street.	Chatham Street.
Artillery Street.	Chester Street.
Ashton Street.	Chorlton Street.
Ashworth Street.	Cleaver Street.
Aspden Street.	Clerkhill Street.
Audley Lane.	Cob Street.
Audley Range.	Cobden Street (Waterfall).
Audley Street.	Cobden Street (Daisyfield).
	College Street.
Back Blakey Street.	Colliers Row.
„ Dover Street.	Copy Street.
„ Friday Street.	Cowell Street.
„ George Street West.	Crabtree Street.
„ Greaves Street.	Craig Street.
„ Mary Ann Street.	Croft Street.
„ Pitt Street.	Crook Street.
Bancroft Street.	Crossfield Street.
Barnes Street.	Cumpstey Street.
Bates Street.	Cutler Street.
Baywood Street.	
Belgrave Street.	Daisy Street.
Bent Street.	Dale Street.
Beverley Street.	Dalton Street.
Billinge Street.	Delf Street.
Birley Street.	Derby Street.
Blakey Street.	Dewhurst Street.
Bolton Road.	Dixon Street.
Bonsall Street.	Dock Street.
Bottomgate.	Dorset Street.
Bower House Fold.	Duckworth Street.
Bower Street.	Duxbury Street.
Bradshaw Street.	
Brandy House Brow.	Eccles Row.
Brewery Row.	Eccles Street.
Broadway Street.	Ellershaw Court.
Brookfield Street.	Elm Street.
Brunswick Street.	Emma Street.
Burnley Road.	Emily Street.
Byrom Street.	Esther Street.

Fecit Brow.
 Fielden Street.
 Fisher Street.
 Fletcher Street.
 Fort Street.
 Francis Street.
 Frederick Street.

George Street West.
 Goit Street.
 Goldhey Street.
 Gray's Square.
 Greaves Street.
 Green Street.
 Grimshaw Park.

Hamilton Street.
 Hamlet Street.
 Hancock Street.
 Hannah Street.
 Hargreaves Lane.
 Harrison Yard.
 Harwood Street.
 Haslingden Road.
 Havelock Street.
 Hazel Street.
 Henrietta Street.
 Herbert Street.
 Hertford Street.
 Hickory Street.
 Higher Audley Street.
 Highfield Road.
 Higson Street.
 Hill of Health.
 Hill Street.
 Hollin Bridge Street.
 Hollin Street.
 Hutchinson Street.
 Hutton Street.

Infirmery Street.
 Ingham Street.
 Inkerman Street.
 Ivy Street.

Jack Croft.
 Jackson Street.
 John Bright Street.
 John Thomas Street.
 Joiners' Row.
 Joseph Street.

Kay Street.

Kemp Street.
 Kenyon Street.
 Kidder Street.
 Kirkham Lane.

Lambeth Street.
 Lansdowne Street.
 Larkhill.
 Lawrence Street.
 Leyland Street.
 Lindley Street.
 Livesey Branch Road.
 Lodge Street.
 Longfield Street.
 Lord Byrom Street.
 Lower Hollin Bank Street.
 Lucknow Street.
 Lund Street.
 Lyon Street.

Maria Street.
 Mary Ann Street.
 Maudsley Street.
 Meadow Lane.
 Millgate Street.
 Moor Street.
 Moorgate Street.
 Moss Street.
 Mount Pleasant.

Nab Lane.
 Napier Street.
 New Garden Street.
 New Row.
 Newton Street.
 Nightingale Court.
 Nuttall Street.

Oak Street.
 Oldham Street.
 Old Mill Street.
 Ordnance Street.
 Oswald Street.
 Oxford Street.

Paradise Street.
 Patterson Street.
 Pearson Street.
 Pendle Street.
 Peter Street.
 Pickup Street.
 Pink Street.
 Polly Street.

Pomfret Street.
 Poplar Street.
 Portsmouth Street.
 Primrose Hill.
 Primrose Terrace.
 Princes Street.
 Prince Albert Street.
 Pringle Street.
 Proctor Street.

Queen Street.
 Queen's Terrace.

Radcliffe Street.
 Riley Street.
 Rivington Street.
 Rockcliffe Street.
 Rosehill.

St. Anne's Street.
 St. Clement Street.
 St. Paul's Street.
 St. Thomas Street.
 Salisbury Street.
 School Lane.
 Shackleton Street.
 Shadsworth.
 Shakespeare Street.
 Sharples Street.
 Shear Brow.
 Sidney Street.
 Slater Street.
 Smalley Street.
 Smith Street.
 Smithies Street.

Snape Street.
 Snig Brook.
 Southwest Street.
 Spring Bank Terrace.
 Stakes Hall Place.
 Stanley Range.
 Stanley Street.
 Stopes Brow.
 Swarbrick Street.

Taylor Street.
 Thomas Street.
 Throstle Street.
 Tontine Street.
 Tower Street.
 Trinity Street.

Union Buildings.

Walnut Street.
 Walsh Street.
 Walter Street.
 Warrington Street.
 Wensley Street.
 Whalley New Road.
 Whalley Old Road.
 William Henry Street.
 William Hopwood Street.
 Wilson Street.
 Witton Parade.
 Wood Street.
 Woolwich Street.

York Street.

There are five voluntary agencies in Blackburn for the provision of meals for children attending Public Elementary Schools. Four of these are agencies or organisations of a general character, namely:—

1. The Ragged School in Bent Street.
2. Bolton Court.
3. All Saints' Ragged School.
4. St. Vincent de Paul.

One organisation is connected with a particular school, namely,

5. St. Peter's National.

At many schools individual efforts have been made by the teachers to provide food and clothing for necessitous cases.

SECTION III.

The extent to which Underfeeding prevails
amongst Blackburn School
Children.

SECTION III.

The extent to which Underfeeding prevails at present amongst Blackburn School Children.

On analysing the results of my inquiries into the 540 houses which I had ascertained, in the manner described above, might possibly contain underfed school children, I am able to state definitely that at 364 of these houses there was no underfeeding of the children.

The following Table shows an analysis of these 364 cases, arranged in wards, number of cases in each ward, average number in family, average number of children in the family under the age of 14 years, average wages per head of the working members of family, and average out-goings of the family per head apart from food and clothes.

WARD.	Number of cases in each Ward.	Average Number in Family.	Average No. of Children in family under the age of 14 years.	Average Wages per head of working members of the family.	Average Weekly outgoings of family apart from food and clothes	REMARKS.
St. Stephen's	32	7	4	14/5	9d.	Two cases removed, and could not be found
Trinity	53	6	3	15/5	10d.	Five "
St. Michael's	11	6	3	15/2	10d.
St. John's	12	5	3	14/4	11d.	Two "
St. Silas'	1	Only one case, and children under school age
St. Paul's	22	6	3	15/1	10d.	Three cases removed, and could not be found
St. Peter's	25	6	3	13/8	10d.	Three "
St. Mary's	25	6	4	15/6	9d.	Three "
St. Matthew's	34	7	4	14/9	10d.	Four "
St. Thomas'	37	6	3	14/3	10d.	Four "
Park	34	7	3	13/3	11d.	Five "
St. Luke's	31	6	3	15/3	10d.	Seven "
St. Mark's	15	6	3	13/2	11d.	Two "
St. Andrew's ...	32	8	4	14/5	9d.	Three "
Borough	28	6	3	14/6	10d.	Average taken on 13 Wards

It is possible that in some cases the figures in this last column may be too low, as it was difficult to obtain correct information.

The results of the inquiries at the remaining 176 houses have been divided into the following three groups of cases.

- I. Those cases which may be underfed owing to permanent impoverishment of the parents (13).
- II. Those cases which may be underfed owing to temporary illness, loss of employment, or other unavoidable causes which have rendered the parents incapable of making necessary provision for the children (114).
- III. Those cases which may be underfed owing to neglect on the part of parents capable of making this provision (49).

It is possible that some of the cases in Group II. may be classed more suitably in Group I. Even if this is so, it does not affect the final results.

The leading particulars, however, of the 176 cases have been given, so that the Committee may form an opinion on the merits of each.

Also in these descriptions of cases I have attempted to indicate those families in which underfeeding may possibly occur when trade is bad, and when the weather is severe.

I have relied upon the statements of the father or the mother as to the amount of earnings in each family. No further verification has been possible.

Unless otherwise stated, the habits of the parents may be considered to be steady.

For obvious reasons, the names and addresses of the various cases have not been given, but they are in my possession.

GROUP I.

Particulars of Inquiries as to the number of School Children who may be without proper nourishment owing to permanent impoverishment of the parents.

Inquiries were made regarding 13 cases under this heading.

CASE 1.

Five in family ; mother and three children, aged 39, 19, 12, 11, and one female lodger aged 24 years respectively. Father dead. Total wages 12/- weekly. Rent 4/- weekly, clubs 11d. weekly. The mother is unable to work, but says that the children have enough to eat. House clean. Furniture fairly good. Children neatly clothed.

CASE 2.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 15, 10, and 4 years. Total wages 14/- weekly. The mother earns 6/- weekly as a charwoman, and the eldest boy earns 8/- weekly by blacking boots. Rent 3/-, clubs 1/- weekly. Father died four years ago. No relief given. On many occasions last winter the children went to school without breakfast. The mother works very hard. This appears to be a case of poverty. House clean. Children clean and fairly well clothed.

CASE 3.

Three in family ; mother and two children, aged 12 and 10 years. Father dead. Mother earns 18/- weekly as a cardroom-hand. Rent 3/11 weekly. No clubs. Received relief a little while ago when mother was out of work. Is not receiving relief at present. No underfeeding. Children are very badly clothed. House clean ; furniture poor.

CASE 4.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 10, 9, and 7 years. Father died seven years ago. The mother earns 17/- weekly as a weaver. No relief. Rent 4/-, and clubs 1/- weekly. House clean. Furniture poor. The mother has run into debt in order to feed and clothe the children. No underfeeding.

CASE 5.

Four in family; mother and three children, aged 9, 5, and 2 years. Father has been away five years. The mother earns 16/- weekly as a cardroom-hand. Rent 2/6, clubs 8d., and nursing 6/- weekly. The mother said that the neighbours have often given her food, and that she was very unwilling to apply for Poor-Law relief. Underfeeding has occurred in this house. House clean. Furniture poor. Children very clean and tidy.

CASE 6.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 12, 10, years, and 1 year 3 months. Wages 19/- weekly from father, who is a fire-beater. Rent 4/2; in arrears. Had relief 5 or 6 weeks previously for one week, when father was out of work. Have had relief on other occasions also. The two eldest children are delicate. House and children clean. This family will get along well if the father keeps his employment. House clean. Furniture good.

CASE 7.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 13, 11, 9, and 1½ years. The eldest child is a tenter (half-time) and earns 2/6 weekly. The mother receives payment for about 2 days cleaning per week. Relief obtained when required. This family has also been assisted by the Charity Organisation Society. The father is an invalid and has not worked for more than a year. One child also is delicate. The children are looked after as well as possible, but do not get proper nourishment. House clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 8.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 6 and 2 years. No father. The mother earns 13/- weekly as a winder. Rent 3/6 weekly. House clean. Furniture fair. Children neatly clothed. Has received Poor-Law relief frequently. Help given by the relatives also. I believe underfeeding has occurred in this house.

CASE 9.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 12, 11, 9, 5½, 3½ years, and 11 days respectively. Wages 16s. weekly. The father was out of work for 15 months before November, 1904, and said he could not get work at that time. Rent 4/9, and clubs 10d. weekly. Relief was received from the Town Hall Fund. The parents do all that is possible for the family, but I believe underfeeding has

occurred in this family. House very clean. Furniture good. Children clean and well clothed.

CASE 10.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 14 and 10 years. No father. Wages 14/- weekly. Rent 3/- weekly. Clubs lapsed. House fairly clean. Furniture very scanty. Children have no clogs and are badly clothed. Poor-Law relief is given at present. The girl, aged 14 years, has been at the Cottage Homes for two years.

CASE 11.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 13, 12, 5 years, and 6 months. The father is an outdoor labourer and earns 15/- weekly. Rent 5/- weekly (furnished room). Have received help from the Ragged School. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. The children are badly clothed and are thin.

CASE 12.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 15, 13, 10, 6, 4, and 3 years. Wages 13/- weekly from father (an outdoor labourer), occasionally 6/- weekly from each of the two eldest children. Rent 4/-, and clubs 6d. weekly. Poor-Law relief was given recently. Mother awaiting confinement. Underfeeding has occurred in this family. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed and four of them are without clogs.

CASE 13.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 13 and 9 years. No father. Wages 6/- weekly. There are also two old people in this house who receive 2/6 weekly from the Union. Relief is often given by the Ragged School authorities and by the Union. This is a case of underfeeding.

Therefore it is probable that in Group I. there are 7 families in which underfeeding of the children may occur. This number represents 19 children from the ages of 3 to 14 years inclusive.

GROUP II.

Particulars of Inquiries as to the number of School Children who may be without proper nourishment owing to temporary illness, loss of employment, or other unavoidable causes which have rendered the parents incapable of making necessary provision for their children.

Inquiries were made regarding 114 cases under this heading:—

CASE 1.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 16, 12, 10, 8, and 3 years. The father can only work one full week out of ten weeks owing to bad health. Also he cannot work during severe weather. The mother earns 4/- weekly by washing, and the son earns 16/- weekly as an out-door labourer, when the weather allows him to work a full week. Rent 4/6, and clubs 1/6 weekly. This family wishes to avoid asking for relief. House fairly clean. Furniture very poor. Children very badly clothed.

CASE 2.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 18, 17, 13, 8, 6, and 3 years. The father is a weaver earning 15/- weekly, but is often away from work owing to heart disease. Two children earn together 15/- weekly. Mother awaiting confinement. Rent 2/9, and clubs 8d. weekly. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Children very badly clothed, and have no clogs. Relief has been given by the Union. I believe there is underfeeding in this family when the father cannot work.

CASE 3.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 6, 3, and 1 years. The father is a clogger, but says he cannot earn much. The mother has been working as a weaver for the last three months and earning 13/- weekly. Rent 3/4, and clubs 1/1 weekly. House fairly clean.

Furniture scanty. The children have received dinners and clothing from All Saints' Ragged School. I believe underfeeding has occurred in this family.

CASE 4.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 7, 6, and 2 years. The father says he cannot find employment. The mother earns 17/- weekly as a weaver, but has not worked for several weeks. She is awaiting confinement. Rent 3/4, and clubs 3/- weekly. There is also a dog licence to pay. Relief has been received from the Union, and the children have had dinners from the All Saints' Ragged School. I suspect underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fairly good. Children clean, and fairly well clothed.

CASE 5.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 12, 8, 6, and 3 years. The father has been out of work since last January, but has received 10/- weekly from his club. He says spinning is difficult to obtain. Rent 4/10, and clubs 10d. weekly. I believe there has been underfeeding in this family. Mother awaiting confinement. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed.

CASE 6.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 6 and 4 years. The father is unable to work on account of ill-health. The mother is a weaver earning 16/- weekly. House very clean. Furniture good. Rent 3/8, and clubs 5d. weekly. Considerable assistance has been given by the neighbours. Children fairly well clothed.

CASE 7.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 20, 17, and 13 years. The father is a cripple, and cannot work. The son earns 13/- weekly, and the daughter 10/- weekly. Rent 3/9, and clubs 6d. Furniture has been pawned for food. House clean. Children badly dressed, but clean.

CASE 8.

Seven in family ; father and six children, aged 16, 14, 10, 9, 4, and 2 years. Rent 3/9, 4d. clubs, and 4/- nursing of children weekly. No mother. The father has no constant work. He is a coal-heaver. Dinners and clothing have been given by the Union and by the All Saints' Ragged School. The two eldest children earn together 13/- weekly. I suspect underfeeding. House very clean. Furniture very poor. Children do not appear robust.

CASE 9.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 5, and 1 years. The father is a rag-gatherer, and earns 12/- many weeks, but the week before visit only earned 8/-. The eldest girl earns 6/4 weekly. Rent 3/4. and stable for donkey 1/- weekly. Last winter relief was received from the Union. The relatives have given food. Two children were wearing clogs which the father had picked up during his rounds. I believe there is underfeeding in this family. House very clean. Furniture scanty. Children clean, but badly clothed. This appears to be a case for the Guardians if help is required.

CASE 10.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 12, 9, and 5 years. Father left home. Rent 3/- weekly. The mother earns 16/- weekly as a cardroom-hand. The boy, aged 12, is a half-timer earning 2/9 weekly. Help has been given by the neighbours. There is no underfeeding at this house, but the children are insufficiently clothed. House clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 11.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 6, 4, and 1½ years. The father is a labourer, and for four months has been earning 22/- weekly, but was out of work last winter, and then relief was received from the Union. Rent 3/-, clubs 7d., and furniture instalments 1s. weekly. The children are at present sufficiently fed, but were underfed last winter. House clean. Furniture good. Children clean and fairly well clothed.

CASE 12.

Four in family ; father and three children, aged 15, 13, and 11 years. No mother. The father is not in constant work. He is a labourer, and says he can only earn 14/- weekly. The eldest girl earns 6/- weekly. Rent 4/3. and clubs 9d. weekly. House clean. Furniture fair. Children fairly well clothed.

CASE 13.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 13, 10, 6, 3 years, and 3 months. The father is not in constant work. He is an outdoor labourer, and can earn 14/- weekly. The mother earns 12/- weekly as a weaver, and the eldest child is a half-timer earning 4/- weekly. Rent 3/-, clubs 7d., and nursing 7/- weekly. Relief was received from the Union four months ago. It is probable that these children will not be sufficiently fed during the winter. House clean. Furniture poor. Children badly clothed.

CASE 14.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 22, 18, 12, 10, and 9 years. Rent and clubs 5/6 weekly. The father is a cripple. The mother and two eldest children earn together 21/- weekly. They were in great poverty last winter. House very clean. Furniture fair. Children are scantily clothed.

CASE 15.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 5 years, and 7 months. The father earns 18/- weekly, but cannot work regularly owing to ill-health. The mother helps by washing. Rent 4/9, and clubs 1/- weekly. Relief has been received from the Union, the Charity Organisation Society, and the neighbours. When the baby was born food came from the neighbours. The family do not always have enough to eat. House clean. Furniture very poor.

CASE 16.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 15, 13, 10, 7, and 1½ years. Rent 4/2, and clubs 1/- weekly. The father is an invalid (heart disease), and cannot work. He has not earned any

money for two years. The children have never gone to school without any breakfast, but have often not had enough to eat. Relief has been received from the Union, the Bent Street Ragged School, and the Charity Organisation Society. The mother earns 7/- weekly by washing, and the eldest boy earns 5/6 weekly in the mill. House clean. Furniture good. Children clean and well clothed.

CASE 17.

Two in family ; mother and girl, aged 9 years. No father. The mother in an invalid and cannot work. Rent 2/6, and club 3d. weekly. 4/- weekly received from the Union. and 4/- weekly from mother's sister. The child is clean, but somewhat pinched, and appears as if she requires more nourishment. House clean. Furniture very fair. This is a case for the Guardians.

CASE 18.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 11, 9, 7, 5, 3, and 1½ years. Father is a labourer, and earns 12/- weekly. House clean. Furniture very poor. Rent 3/2. and clubs 3d. weekly. The children were away from school on account of sore heads. One child had no clogs. I believe there is underfeeding in this family.

CASE 19.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 10, 9, and 1½ years. Father earns 18/- weekly as a labourer, but is not always in full work. The children were dirty and badly clothed. Sore heads. Rent 4/6, and clubs 11d. weekly. Help has been received from the Ragged School and school teachers. There was only one small piece of bread in the house at the time of visit. I believe there is underfeeding in this family. House dirty. Furniture very poor.

CASE 20.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 11, 2 years, and 8 months. Rent 4/8 weekly, clubs 9d. weekly when payment can be made. The father is an invalid, and works when he can. He earned 11/- the week before the visit, but was ill at the time of visit. Has only worked three full weeks in six months. The parents say that their children have often gone to school without breakfast. This

is a case of underfeeding, and requires help. House clean. Furniture very scanty indeed. Children clean, scantily clothed, and look pinched.

CASE 21.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 3 years, and 7 months. The father earns 20/- weekly, and the eldest child 2/9 weekly as a half-timer. Rent 4/2, and clubs (including clothing) 3/3 weekly. Food has been given by the neighbours. House clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but scantily clothed.

CASE 22.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 8 and 2 years. Wages 10/- weekly from father, who is in the Army. He was previously earning 17/- weekly. Mother has been away from work for four months through weakness and is now awaiting confinement. The children have frequently not had sufficient food, but have never been entirely without a meal. Relief has been received from the Union. Rent 3/8, and clubs 8d. weekly. House clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but badly clothed.

CASE 23.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 13, 9, 7, 3, and 1 years. The father earns 10/- weekly as an umbrella hawker, and the mother 3/- weekly as a charwoman. Rent 2/6, and clubs 7d. weekly. There are arrears of rent. Relief has been received from the Union. The mother says the children have always had food, but she has been without food herself frequently. House clean. Furniture very poor. Children seem healthy, but are badly clothed.

CASE 24.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 13, 12, 10, 7, 5, 3, and 1 years. When the father is working this family is comfortable, as he can earn 30/- weekly ; but when he is not working, as frequently occurs in the winter, there is poverty. They have always sufficient to eat in the summer months. Help was received from the Ragged School last winter. Rent 4/-, and clubs 1/3 weekly. House clean. Furniture poor. Children badly clothed. The mother is delicate.

CASE 25.

Three in family ; mother and two children, aged 9 and 7 years. No father. The mother earns 12/- weekly as a charwoman. Rent 4/6 and clubs 4d. weekly. Help given by relatives. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 26.

Ten in family ; father, mother, and eight children, aged 17, 14, 12, 10, 8, 5, 3, and 1 years. The father cannot work regularly owing to an accident. The two eldest children earn 18/- weekly. Rent 4/-, and clubs 1/- weekly. Relief was received from the Union last Christmas. The children have never gone to school without something to eat. They were insufficiently fed last winter. House clean. Furniture very poor. Children clean, but badly clothed.

CASE 27.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 7, 3 years, and 8 months. The father earns 14/- weekly. The mother helps by washing, and two old women who live in this house pay 1/- each weekly, which they receive from the Union. Rent 3/8, and clubs 1/- weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children clean, but badly clothed.

CASE 28.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 6, 4, and 2 years. Father earns 22/- weekly in the summer as a labourer. The family have often a difficulty in "making ends meet" during the winter. The mother helps by washing. Rent 3/11 weekly. Had relief from the Union last winter. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean.

CASE 29.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 8, 4, and 2 years. No father ; died from phthisis recently. Mother earns 7/- weekly as a charwoman. Rent 4/-, and clubs 3d. weekly. No relief. House very clean. Furniture very good. Children very clean and well clothed. The mother says they have enough food at present.

CASE 30.

Eight in family ; mother and seven children, aged 14, 12, 10, 9, 7, 5, and 3 years. No father. No one working. The eldest child is learning to weave. 6/- received weekly from the Union. This is a case of underfeeding. House clean. Furniture poor. Children very clean.

CASE 31.

Three in family ; father, mother, and boy, aged 12 years. The father says he is unable to get work. The mother is a washerwoman earning 8/- weekly. Rent 3/8 and clubs 3d. weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 32.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 16, 14, 12, 10, 7, 4 years, and 8 months. The father has been out of work for five months, and says he cannot obtain it. The mother earns 2/- weekly by washing, and the eldest child earns 9/- weekly. Rent 3/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Arrears of rent. Relief is received from the Union and from relatives. The children are not underfed, but are badly clothed. House fairly clean. Furniture very poor.

CASE 33.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 12, 11, 7, 5, 3 years, and 4 months. The father has been out of work since last Easter, and says he is continually trying to get work, but unsuccessfully. The mother earns 3/- weekly by washing, and the eldest child earns 2/6 weekly as a half-timer. Rent 3/8, and clubs 9d. weekly. Relief is received from the Union. These children cannot always get sufficient to eat, and the parents deny themselves frequently. There was only half a loaf in the house at the time of visiting. House clean. Furniture fair. Children very badly clothed, and look pinched.

CASE 34.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 18, 11, 9, 6, 4, and 1 years. The father earns 18/- weekly as an out-door labourer, and is to some extent dependent upon the weather. The

eldest child earns 8/- weekly. Rent 3/11, and clubs 1/2 weekly. The family had relief during the early part of this year. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean and well-clothed.

CASE 35.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 16, 14, 12, 8, 6, 4, and 2 years. The father was out of work as an out-door labourer until one month ago. There is often distress in this family during the winter. Relief was received from the Union during the whole of last winter. The father is now earning 18/- weekly, and the eldest child 10/6 weekly. Rent 3/- weekly. Clubs lapsed. House clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but badly clothed.

CASE 36.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 12, 9, 5, 3 years, and 5 months. Father says he is willing to work, but cannot obtain it. Rent 3/9 weekly. Arrears of rent. Clubs lapsed. Children badly clothed, and appear pinched. Nearly all the furniture has been pawned. Baby very delicate. House dirty.

CASE 37.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 7, 5, and 2½ years. Father away from home. Mother earns 11/- weekly as a winder. Rent 2/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Nursing 5/- weekly. Relief is received from the Union. House clean. Furniture very poor. Children clean, but badly clothed.

CASE 38.

Two in family ; grandmother and boy aged 9 years. The grandmother washes for a relative as payment for lodgings of herself and boy. They have only 2/6 per week, and depend on the generosity of friends. Help has been given by the Ragged School, and the school teachers. The grandmother appears to be striving to keep the boy out of the Workhouse. The parents died when the boy was five weeks old.

CASE 39.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 13, 9, and 4 years. No father. Wages 6/6 weekly. Relief is received from the Union. Rent 3/9, and clubs 1/- weekly. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 40.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 8, 6, 4, 2 years, and 5 months. The father earns 18/- weekly as a weaver. Rent 3/9 weekly. Not had relief for 12 months. The mother says she always manages to get something to eat for them. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children clean, but seem thin.

CASE 41.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 15, 13, 8, 7, 4, 2 years, and 7 months. The father earns 20/- as a spinner, and the eldest boy 7/- weekly as a reacher. Rent 3/9, and clubs 1/10 weekly. Appear to have sufficient to eat. House clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 42.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 18, 12, 10, 8, and 3 years. No father. Wages 18/6 weekly. Rent 4/2, and clubs 7d. weekly. Children appear to have sufficient to eat. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed.

CASE 43.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 12, 11, 10, 6, 5, and 3 years. Father earns 22/- weekly. Mother sometimes helps by washing. Rent 3/-, and clubs 2/10 weekly. Food consists chiefly of bread and a little butter. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 44.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 11, 5, 3 years, and 4 months. The average wage of the father, an out-door labourer, is 18/- weekly. Rent 3/8, and clubs 10d. weekly. Relief has not been received for 18 months. The mother says the children always have something to eat. House clean. Furniture moderate.

CASE 45.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 10, 9, 6, 2 years, and 4 months. The father earns 20/- weekly as a spinner. Rent 3/6 weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Relief is obtained from the Union. No underfeeding now.

CASE 46.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 11, 9, 7, 5 years, and 5 months. The father earns 24/- weekly as a weaver. Rent 4/10 weekly. Had relief two years ago, when the husband was out of work. No underfeeding now. House clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 47.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 5, and 3 years. The father earns 14/- weekly as a basket-maker. The eldest child earns 5/6 weekly as a tenter. Rent and outgoings other than for clothes and food, 6/- weekly. Relief was given last winter. The mother says the children always have something to eat, but that it is often not very nourishing. House clean. Furniture moderate.

CASE 48.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 10, 7, and 4 years. No father. The mother has to go out washing. An old woman aged 70 lives with this family, and receives relief, 2/6 weekly. In addition to this other relief is given by the relatives and the Union. This is a case of poverty. House clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 49.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 8, 6, 4, 2 years, and 5 months. The father is a labourer, and earns 20/- weekly. Rent 3/- weekly. Relief was given some months ago by the Union and relatives. The mother says that the children have occasionally gone to school short of food. House clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 50.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 6, 3 years, and 3 months. Father earns 20/- weekly as an out-door labourer. Rent 3/9 weekly. Relief was given 8 or 9 months ago. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed.

CASE 51.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 13, 12, 9, 7, 5, 3 years, and 5 months. The father is not in constant work on account of ill-health. He is earning 22/- weekly at present. Rent 3/9, club and medical attendance 2/6 weekly. Relief was given last Christmas. I believe the children are not fed properly when the father is not working. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 52.

Five in family ; mother and four children, aged 16, 13, 10, and 9 years. No father. The mother goes out to work when she can obtain it. The eldest child earns 2/- weekly. Rent 5/- weekly, which is paid by a relative. One of the children has a weak heart. This is a genuine case of poverty. The children can only get bread and dripping. Help is given by the Charity Organisation Society. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 53.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 15, 12, 10, 6, 4, and 1½ years. The father earns 18/- weekly as a labourer when he is working. The eldest child earns 7/- weekly. Rent 3/9, and clubs 9d. weekly. No underfeeding now. The children seem well-nourished. House fairly clean. Furniture moderate.

CASE 54.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 10, 8, and 3 years. Father earns 26/- weekly as a joiner when he is working, but has been out of work 14 weeks this year. Rent 4/-, and clubs 2/1 weekly. Relief was given by the Charity Organisation Society when the father was out of work. Mother awaiting confinement. House clean. Furniture very fair. Children badly clothed.

CASE 55.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 9, 8, 5, 2 years, and 8 months. The father earns 17/- weekly as a weaver. Rent 3/6, and clubs 9d. weekly. The mother says that the children have never missed a meal, but that they have frequently not had enough to eat. House not very clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 56.

Ten in family ; father, mother, and eight children, aged 16, 13, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, and 2 years. The father earns 17/- weekly as a labourer when in work. The eldest child earns 9/- weekly. There is only just a bare living for this family. Relief was given when the father was out of work. House clean. Furniture moderate.

CASE 57.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 12, 11, 8, 5, and 2 years. Wages 20/- weekly. Rent 4/8 weekly. Children badly clothed. Relief was given when the father was out of work. House fairly clean. Furniture moderate.

CASE 58.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 9, 7, and 5 years. The father earns 15/- weekly by taking milk round. Rent 3/3, and clubs 1/- weekly. Relief was given 12 months ago. Children badly clothed. Mother awaiting confinement. Frequently towards the end of a week there is no food in this house. Help has often been given by the neighbours. I believe underfeeding occurs in this family. House and furniture fair.

CASE 59.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 12, 11, 5, and 2 years. Wages very small and indefinite. Rent 4/2 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Had relief a few weeks ago. Father not in work at present. He is attempting work as a labourer. This family has "come down in the world." I believe underfeeding occurs at this house.

CASE 60.

Seven in family ; mother and six children, aged 18, 15, 12, 10, 7, and 3 years. No father. The two eldest children earn together 19/6 weekly as weavers. Rent 3/2, and clubs 8d. weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed, but do not appear to be underfed.

CASE 61.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 16, 10, and 2½ years. The father earns from 6/- to 12/- weekly as a cooper. He might try a change of occupation. The mother goes out washing some weeks, and then earns 2/6 to 3/- weekly, and the eldest child earns 6/- weekly. Rent 4/8 weekly. One child is a cripple. Relief has been given by the Union. House clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 62.

Five in family ; mother and four children, aged 15, 12, 6, and 4 years. No father. The mother has not been able to work for three months. The eldest child earns 8/- weekly in the mill. Rent 4/-, and clubs 7d. weekly. Relief in food is received from the Union. The diet of this family is chiefly bread and a little butter. The house is clean and the furniture poor. One child is a cripple.

CASE 63.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 10, 8, and 6 years. No father. The mother is at the mill all day and earns 17/- weekly. Relief has been received from the Union. Children badly clothed. No underfeeding. House and furniture poor.

CASE 64.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 7, 5, 3 years, and 5 months. Wages 18/- weekly from father, a labourer. Rent 2/6, and clubs 1/- weekly. Arrears of rent. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture poor. Children badly clothed.

CASE 65.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 10, 8, 7, 4, 3 years, and 5 months. Father not in constant work. He is at present "weaving for sick." Relief given by Union and neighbours. Rent 3/2. Clubs lapsed. This is a case of poverty. House not clean. Furniture very poor.

CASE 66.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 19, 15, 12, 5, and 2 years. Father in bad health, sells firewood. One child earns 7/6 weekly. The eldest, who earned 9/- weekly, ran away from home the week before visit. Rent 4/- weekly. Never had relief. This is a case of poverty. Children badly dressed. House clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 67.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 13, 9, 3, 1½ years, and 2 months. Father earns 22/- weekly when in work, as a labourer. Children badly dressed. Rent 4/4 weekly. House fairly clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 68.

Five in family ; father and four children, aged 18, 16, 12, and 10 years. The father is a labourer, but is out of work. He says he cannot obtain regular work. The two eldest children together earn 19/6 weekly. Rent 3/-, and clubs 1/9 weekly. No relief. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture poor. Children badly dressed and have no clogs.

CASE 69.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 5 and 3 years. Father says he is out of work through having joined the Militia. His occupation is a labourer. Rent 2/- weekly. Help is given by relations. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly dressed, but clean.

CASE 70.

Three in family ; grandfather, grandmother, and child, aged 14 years. Relief is given by Union. Rent 4/6 weekly. House clean. Furniture poor. This seems to be a case for the Guardians.

CASE 71.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 6, 4, and 2 years. Wages 16/- weekly from father, a hawker. Rent 6/-, and clubs 4d. weekly. Children badly dressed. Help has been given from school. House clean ; furniture poor.

CASE 72.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 19, 16, 14, 12, and 9 years. No father. The three eldest children earn together 21/- weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture very scanty. Children badly clothed.

CASE 73.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 18, 14, 12, 8, 6, and 3 years. The father is often out of work. His occupa-

tion is labouring, and he can earn 17/- weekly. The two eldest children earn together 15/- weekly. Rent 4/8, and clubs 2/- weekly. Children badly clothed. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 74.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 14, 12, 9, 7, and 5 years. Father out of work. He is a spinner and says that it is difficult to obtain work as a spinner. Wages 13/6 weekly from the two eldest children. Rent 4/4, and clubs 9d. weekly. Children neatly clothed. House clean. Furniture good.

CASE 75.

Nine in family; father, mother, and seven children, aged 17, 15, 13, 6, 5, 7, and 3 years. The father is often out of work during severe weather. When in work he earns 18/- weekly as a labourer. The eldest child earns 10/- weekly. Rent, 4/5 weekly. Children badly dressed. Underfeeding may occur when the father is not working. House clean. Furniture very scanty.

CASE 76.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 14, 11, and 8 years. The father, a labourer in foundry is out of work. He says his trade is bad. The mother earns 6/- weekly by washing. The family has incurred debts. Rent 4/4, and clubs 1/- weekly. House clean. Furniture good. Children neatly clothed.

CASE 77.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 12, 10, 6, and 4 years. The father earns 16/- when in work. The mother earns 16/- weekly in a mill. Children badly dressed. Rent 4/4 weekly. Relief has been given by the Union. I believe there has been underfeeding in this house. House fairly clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 78.

Seven in family; mother and six children, aged 13, 10, 9, 8, 7, and 4 years. No father. The mother earns 8/- by washing, and the eldest girl earns 4/- weekly as a "half-timer" Rent 4/4 weekly. Relief given by Union. House not clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly clothed.

CASE 79.

Five in family; mother and four children, aged 15, 12, 8, and 4 years. Father dying. Wages 5/6. and clubs 11d. weekly. Help given by Union. Children badly clothed. Arrears of rent. Clothes borrowed from neighbours. House clean. Furniture very scanty indeed.

CASE 80.

Seven in family; mother and six children, aged 12, 11, 9, 7, 3 years, and 5 months. No father. Wages 3/- weekly. Help given by Union. This is a case of underfeeding, and is also a case for the Guardians. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children poorly clothed.

CASE 81.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 12, 10, 8, 5, and 3 years. Wages 12/- weekly from father, who is a French-polisher. Rent 4/2 weekly. Children badly clothed and have no clogs. I believe this is a case of underfeeding. House clean. Furniture scanty. The children have "sore eyes."

CASE 82.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 14, 10, 4, 2 years, and 7 months. The father is an outdoor labourer, and earns 20/- weekly, and the eldest child 2/- weekly. Rent 4/- and clubs 11d. weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean but poorly dressed.

CASE 83.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 11, 10, 7, 5, 3 years, and 10 months. Wages 21/- weekly from father, who is a weaver. Rent 4/- weekly. Underfeeding may occur here if the father is out of work. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 84.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 8 and 2 years. Mother not in good health, but earns 17/- weekly when working. Rent 2/9. and clubs 1/3 weekly. Helped by relatives. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair. Children neatly dressed.

CASE 85.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, and 2 years. Wages 22/- weekly when in work. Father is a loomer. Rent 4/2, and clubs 1/4 weekly. No underfeeding now.

CASE 86.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 14, 13, 10, 6, 4, and 2 years. The father, an outdoor labourer, when in work earns 15/- weekly. He is in work now. The two eldest children earn 9/6 weekly. Rent 3/6, and clubs 9d. weekly. Last winter the furniture was sold for food. House clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but poorly clad.

CASE 87.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 14, 13, and 10 years. Father out of work. He is a whitewasher. Wages 5/- weekly. Rent 3/6, and clubs 7d. weekly. Help received from a married daughter. I believe there has been underfeeding here. House clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but poorly clad.

CASE 88.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 6 and 4 years. No father. Mother out of work. Rent 2/6 weekly. Help has been given by the Union. House clean. Furniture practically nil. Children poorly clad. This seems to be a case for the Guardians.

CASE 89.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 9, 8, 5, 3 years, and 5 months. Wages 8/6 weekly from father, who is a labourer, and says he cannot get work in Blackburn. Rent 2/1 weekly. Help has been given by the Union. Furniture sold. This seems to be a case of underfeeding. House clean. Children very badly dressed.

CASE 90.

Three in family; father, mother, and boy, aged 7 years. Father out of work. He is a spinner, and says he cannot get work. Rent 3/6, and clubs 1/4 weekly. Furniture sold. Help given by relatives. House clean. Children poorly clothed.

CASE 91.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 12, 11, 7 years, and 1 year 10 months. The father is not in full work, but earns 10/- weekly as a moulder, and the mother 14/- weekly in the mill. Rent 3/9, clubs 9d., and nursing 6/- weekly. Children badly clothed. House clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 92.

Seven in family; father and six children, aged 17, 15, 10, 6, 5, and 3 years. No mother. The father earns 14/- weekly as a paper-maker, but is not working full time at present. The eldest child earns 10/- weekly. Rent 2/9 weekly. House clean. Furniture fair. The father will not ask for relief. Children clean and fairly well clothed.

CASE 93.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 7 and 2 years. No father. Wages 11/- weekly from mother, who works in the mill. Rent 4/3 weekly. Help given by the Union. This is a case for the Guardians. House clean. Furniture fair. Children badly clothed.

CASE 94.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 8, 7, 3 years, and 2 months. The father earns 16/- weekly, as a weaver, and at the week of visiting the mother had commenced to work at 16/- weekly. Rent 3/-, clubs 9d., and nursing 5/- weekly. I believe there has been suffering in this house. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean and neatly dressed.

CASE 95.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 15, 12, 10, and 8 years. The father can earn 22/6 weekly as a labourer, but when he is out of work underfeeding occurs. No underfeeding at present. Help has been given by All Saints' Ragged School. The eldest child earns 10/4 weekly in the mill. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly dressed.

CASE 96.

Five in family; mother and four children, aged 17, 14, 12, and 6 years. No father. The mother is out of work through ill-health, but occasionally earns 17/3 weekly in the mill. The two eldest

children appear to be lazy. Rent 3/6, and clubs 4d. Help has been given by All Saints' Ragged School. House clean. Furniture very scanty. Children badly dressed.

CASE 97.

Three in family; father, mother, and one girl, aged 11 years. The father is a labourer, and earns 18s. weekly. Rent 3/6 weekly. Mother awaiting confinement. Help has been given by relatives and friends. No underfeeding. House very clean. Furniture very scanty. Children poorly dressed.

CASE 98.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 18, 15, 13, 10, and 5 years. Father out of work. He is a labourer at brickworks, and can earn 17/- weekly. Mother awaiting confinement. The three eldest children earn 19/- weekly. Rent 3/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. There has been underfeeding in this family, but there does not appear to be any now. House very clean. Furniture very scanty. Children clean, but badly dressed.

CASE 99.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 7 years, 1 year and 7 months, and 3 months. The father is out of work, and has not worked 5 weeks since last Christmas. His occupation is carting for builders. He says the building trade is slack. Wages 7/- weekly from mother, who goes out washing. The husband's brother gives 5/- weekly, and the grandmother also gives food. Rent 3/-, and clubs 1/- weekly. House clean. Furniture fair. Children very clean and well clothed.

CASE 100.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 14, 12, and 10 years. Father has been out of work for 3 weeks. He usually earns 16/- weekly as a labourer. The eldest child earns 4/- weekly. Rent 2/9 weekly. Help has been given by relatives. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children poorly clothed.

CASE 101.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 10, 8, 6, and 4 years. A woman aged 66 years also lives in this house and receives 2/6 weekly from the Union. Father earns 9/- weekly at fairs. He does not live at home. Mother can earn 13/- weekly when

in work at the mill. Rent 3/9 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Relief has been given by the Union. There has been suffering in this house when trade has been bad. No underfeeding at present. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Children fairly well clothed.

CASE 102.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 17, 14, 8, 6, and 3 years. The father is out of work and is a cripple. The two eldest children earn together 16/- weekly in the mill. Rent 2/9 weekly. The children are badly clothed. Relief was given by the Union eight months ago. The parents have denied themselves food for the sake of the children. House clean. Furniture very scanty.

CASE 103.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 7, 5, and 2 years. The father is earning 20/- per week as a moulder, and when he was out of work, five months ago, help was given by the Union. The day he found work there was no food in the house, and nearly all the furniture had been sold. Rent 3/8. and clubs 10d. weekly. Mother awaiting confinement. There has been underfeeding here. House clean. Children clean, but poorly clothed.

CASE 104.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 5 and 4 years, and 6 months. The father is at present working as an outdoor labourer, and earning 16/- per week. Rent 4/3 and clubs 6d. weekly. Children badly clothed. Help is given by relatives and the neighbours. There has been underfeeding in this family. House very clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 105.

Four in family; father, mother, and two children, aged 12 and 9 years. The father is out of work and is a cripple. His occupation is spinning. The mother earns 8/- weekly by washing. Rent 3/3. and clubs 7d. weekly. Help has been given by the Union. The mother states that the children have often gone to school without breakfast. House fairly clean. Furniture very scanty. Children very poorly clothed. This seems to be a case for the Guardians.

CASE 106.

Three in family; grandfather and two children, aged 9 and 8 years. No parents. The grandfather is a rag-gatherer, and earns

14/- weekly. Rent 3/3, and clubs 1/- weekly. The children are badly clothed, but are clean and have sufficient to eat. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 107.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 11, 9, 8, 4, and 1 years. The father has been out of work for several weeks. He is a brushmaker, and can, when he is working, earn 23/- weekly. Rent 3/10, and clubs 1/4 weekly. The mother has often had no breakfast, so that the children should have something to eat. She helps by washing. I believe underfeeding has occurred here. This family will not ask for relief. House very clean. Furniture poor. Children clean, but poorly clothed.

CASE 108.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 10, 7, 3 years, and 2 months. Wages 18/- weekly. Rent 3/10 weekly. Relief was received from the Union last Christmas. Furniture has been sold, as the father had no regular work until the week before inquiry. He is a spinner. The whole family has often had no breakfast. Underfeeding has occurred here. House clean. Furniture fair. Children poorly clothed.

CASE 109.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 11, 9, 7, 4 years, and 6 months. The father is out of work ; he earned 18/- last Easter. His occupation is labourer in a coal yard. The mother occasionally earns 3/4 weekly by washing. Rent 3/- weekly. Relief has been given by the Union. There was no food in the house at the time of visit, and the mother, although nursing the baby, had not been able to get any food all day. This is a case of underfeeding. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children poorly clothed.

CASE 110.

Five in family ; father and four children, aged 13, 11, 7, and 3 years. No mother. The father earns 22/- as a labourer when in work. Rent 4/-, and clubs 2/- weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair. Children fairly well clothed.

CASE 111.

Four in family ; mother and boy, aged 7 years, and two grandparents. No father. When the mother is working she earns 15/- weekly as a weaver, and the grandfather earns 9/- weekly as a labourer. Rent 4/3, and clubs 9d. weekly. No underfeeding. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean, and neatly clothed. This family will not ask for relief.

CASE 112.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 8, 5, 3, 2 years, and 7 months. One child is an invalid. No father. The mother earns 10/- weekly as a cardroom-hand. Relief is given by the Union. This appears to be a case for the Guardians.

CASE 113.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 12, 8, 6, 4, and 1½ years. The husband has been out of work for many months, but he is now earning 17/- weekly as a labourer. The mother earns 14/- in the mill, but has only just begun work. Rent 3/6. Help has been given by the neighbours. House clean. Furniture fair.

CASE 114.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 14, 12, 3, and 2 years. The father is at present working, and earning 15/- weekly as a labourer. The mother is in poor health, but has just commenced work as a weaver at 18/- weekly. When she is working, payment of 5/- weekly is required for nursing. This family is in lodgings, and pay 5/- weekly for rent. Clubs 1/- weekly. House clean. Furniture poor. Children poorly clothed.

Thus in Group II. there appear to be 69 families in which underfeeding occurs now or has occurred recently. This number represents 238 children, from the ages of 3 to 14 years inclusive.

GROUP III.

Particulars of Inquiries as to the number of School Children who may be without proper nourishment owing to neglect on the part of parents capable of making necessary provision.

Inquiries were made regarding 49 cases under this division :—

CASE 1.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 11, 9, 6, 4, and 2 years. The father is an out-door labourer earning 24/- weekly, and the mother is a cardroom-hand earning 10/- weekly. Rent 4/-, and clubs 1/- weekly. Furniture very poor. Children clean and well-nourished, but badly clothed. House clean. Father drinks occasionally. This family was very poor last winter. The grandmother has come to live at this house recently, otherwise the children would be neglected.

CASE 2.

Three in family ; father and two children, aged 9 and 5 years. Mother lives away from the family. The father earns 24/- weekly as a driver. Rent 4/5, furniture instalments 3/-, and clubs 1/- weekly. The children are well fed, owing to the kindness of their uncle and neighbours. The father was drinking at the time of inquiry.

CASE 3.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 6 and 3 years. Wages 22/- weekly. Rent 2/6. and clubs 9d. weekly. The children appeared to be well fed, but were dirty and neglected. House clean. Furniture very poor. The father is a drinker and wife-beater. The mother, who is a hard-working woman, stated that, on many occasions last year, she went without food in order to let the children have it. Help was given by the grandmother.

CASE 4.

Three in family ; father and two children, aged 13 and 5 years. No mother. Father out of work at present, and is addicted to drink.

He is also an invalid. Rent 3/- weekly. Payments to clubs have lapsed. Relief 4/- per week. This seems to be a case of underfeeding. House fairly clean. Furniture very poor.

CASE 5.

Three in family; mother and two children, aged 10 and 4 years. No father. Mother says she cannot work. Rent 2/6 weekly. Payments to clubs have lapsed. Relief 4/- per week from Union, and also from Ragged School. The children looked pinched, and say they never taste butter, and are often without clogs. This is a case of underfeeding. House fairly clean. Furniture very poor.

CASE 6.

Four in family; mother and three children, aged 12, 8, and 5 years. No father. Mother works occasionally, but seems a bad manager. Rent 4/4, and clubs 1½d. weekly. Help is given by the teachers and 6/- weekly from Union. Children clean, but badly clothed. House very clean. Furniture poor.

CASE 7.

Six in family; mother and five children, aged 15, 12, 11, 9, and 2 years. Father left home. Wages 8/- weekly. Rent 4/3, and clubs 7d. There are arrears for rent and coal. I suspect underfeeding in this family. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children clean, but badly clothed. Relief is given by the Union and by neighbours. The eldest girl is an invalid.

CASE 8.

Six in family; mother and five children, aged 9, 7, 3, and 2 years, and 8 months. Father in prison. The mother is a winder, and earns 20/- weekly. Mother works very hard. Rent 3/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. House clean. Furniture scanty. Children badly dressed, but appear to be well fed. Help given by the Union and by the grandmother.

CASE 9.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 9, 7, and 4 years, and 3 months. Father is lazy and drinks. Mother works

hard, and earns 10/- weekly by sewing. Rent 3/8 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Relief given by the Union. I suspect underfeeding. One child is an invalid.

CASE 10.

Four in family ; father, mother, and two children, aged 12 and 8 years. Wages 4/- weekly from mother, who works hard as a char-woman. Father drinks. Rent 3/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Relief given. This is a case of underfeeding. House very clean. Furniture poor. Children very clean and fairly well clothed.

CASE 11.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 14, 11, 9, 6, and 1½ years. Mother indifferent, but earns 7/6 weekly by washing. No relief. A lodger earns 13/- weekly. Rent 3/11. Clubs lapsed. House very clean. Furniture very poor. Children very clean, but very badly clothed. The eldest girl will be working shortly.

CASE 12.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 19, 14, 12, 10, and 6 years. Total wages 20/- weekly. House clean. Furniture very poor. The mother washes, and the eldest boy is a labourer. Rent 4/6 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Father in asylum through alcoholism. The mother says these children have previously gone to school without food. One boy is mentally deficient.

CASE 13.

Three in family ; mother and two children, aged 10 and 9 years. The mother earns 18/- weekly as a winder. Rent 3/9 weekly. Father left home. Mother works very hard. House clean. Furniture poor. Help is given by relatives.

CASE 14.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 12 and 6 years, and 6 months. The mother earns 18/- weekly as a ring spinner. Rent 4/6. Father lazy and alcoholic, and away from home. House clean. Furniture fair. Children clean and fairly well clothed.

CASE 15.

Four in family; mother and three children, aged 13, 8, and 5 years. The mother earns 6/- weekly by washing. Rent 3/9. Clubs 6d. House clean. Furniture fair. Payments made to mother 12/- weekly. Mother indifferent. No underfeeding.

CASE 16.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 12, 9, 7, and 5 years. The father earns 17/- weekly as a labourer, and the mother 5/- weekly as a charwoman. Rent 3/8 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Parents alcoholic. House dirty. Furniture very poor. Received relief recently. This is a case of neglect, but the children do not appear to be underfed.

CASE 17.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 9, 6, 4, 1 year and 5 months, and 8 weeks. Wages 25/- weekly. No relief. Rent and clubs 5/3 weekly. House clean. Furniture very poor. Parents alcoholic. Children seem well fed, but neglected.

CASE 18.

Six in family; father, mother, and four children, aged 22, 15, 13, and 7 years. Wages 12/6 from the eldest girl, who works in the mill. Rent and clubs 5/8 weekly. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Father in prison. Mother intemperate. I suspect underfeeding through carelessness and neglect.

CASE 19.

Eight in family; father, mother, and six children, aged 14, 11, 9, 4, 2 years, and 4 months. Wages indefinite. Father drinks, and is a cripple. I believe that this is a case of neglect and poverty.

CASE 20.

Six in family; mother and five children, aged 20, 13, 11, 8, and 5 years. No father. Wages 21/- weekly. Children seem well nourished. Rent 4/-, clubs 1/-. House clean. Furniture scanty. Mother drinks, and is lazy. Alcohol in house at time of visit.

CASE 21.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 19, 18, 13, 10, 8 years, and 1 year and 4 months. Wages 31/- weekly from the two eldest children. Rent 4/- weekly. House clean. Furniture good. Father seems to be lazy. He is a strong, able-bodied man, but is not working.

CASE 22.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 7, 5, and 1 years. The father is an invalid. Wages 8/- weekly. Rent 3/- weekly. House dirty. Furniture scanty. Relief given by the Union. Mother indifferent. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 23.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 16, 14, 12, 10, 5, and 1 years. Wages 32/- weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 4/- weekly. Children seem well-nourished, but the mother says they have sometimes had no breakfast. Parents alcoholic.

CASE 24.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 11, 10, 7, 5, and 4 years. Mother is a cardroom-hand, and earns 19/- weekly when in work, but she has bad health. Rent 3/10 weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Father gone away. Children seem well-nourished, and are clean, but badly clothed. Relief given by the Union.

CASE 25.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 9, 8, and 1 years. The father is a labourer, and earns 16/- weekly. House not clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/6, and club 7d. weekly. Children badly clothed. Parents indifferent.

CASE 26.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 15, 13, 8, 6, and 3 years. Wages indefinite. Children badly clothed. Parents say the children have enough to eat. Rent 3/8 weekly. House clean. Furniture practically nil. Parents indifferent.

CASE 27.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 15, 11, 9, 7, 3, and 1 years. Wages 22/- weekly. House not clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/9, clubs 10d. weekly. Husband intemperate. He is an out-door labourer, and was in bed at the time of visit.

CASE 28.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 9, 7, 5, 4, and 1 years. Wages indefinite. Rent 3/9 weekly. House clean. Furniture practically nil. Husband intemperate. Children very badly clothed. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 29.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 10, 4, 2 years, and 2 months. Wages 30/- weekly from both parents, who work in the mill. Rent 3/10 weekly. House not clean. Furniture scanty. Parents indifferent. Children not clean, but not underfed. One boy is delicate.

CASE 30.

Twelve in family ; father, mother, and ten children, aged 26, 24, 22, 21, 17, 14, 11, 7, 4, and 1 years. Father says he has heart disease, and cannot work. Wages 37/- weekly. House dirty. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/-, clubs 1/9 weekly. Parents indifferent and lazy. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 31.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 14, 11, 4, and 1½ years. Wages 15/- weekly. Children badly dressed. Rent 4/-, and clubs 1/6 weekly. No relief. Parents alcoholic. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 32.

Six in family ; mother and five children, aged 12, 10, 8, 6, and 3 years. Wages indefinite. House dirty. Furniture scanty. Rent 4/-, clubs 6d. weekly. Had relief. Mother bad manager. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 33.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 15, 12, 7, and 4 years. Wages 28/- weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/- weekly. Children badly clothed. Parents indifferent.

CASE 34.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 23, 20, 17, 14, 12, 10, and 6 years. Wages 28/- weekly. Rent 4/- weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Mother lazy and alcoholic. Children badly clothed. Two sons lazy and not working.

CASE 35.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 20, 17, 15, 11, and 6 years. Wages 46/- weekly. House dirty and neglected. Furniture scanty. Rent 4/-, and clubs 2/- weekly. Parents careless. Children dirty. Mother dirty.

CASE 36.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 13, 11, 9, 7, 5, 2 years, and 1 month. Wages 17/- weekly. Father obtained work 3 weeks ago. Rent 3/3 weekly. Clubs lapsed. Had relief last winter. Mother indifferent. Children badly clothed. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty.

CASE 37.

Seven in family ; father, mother, and five children, aged 13, 12, 10, 7, and 2 years. Wages 20/- weekly. House not very clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/2, and clubs 1/3 weekly. Mother indifferent. Children badly dressed.

CASE 38.

Nine in family ; father, mother, and seven children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 4, 3, and 2 years. Wages 35/- weekly. House clean. Furniture good. Rent 3/6 weekly. No relief. Father alcoholic.

CASE 39.

Six in family ; father, mother, and four children, aged 11, 9, 4 years, and 1 year and 9 months. Wages 20/- weekly. House clean.

Furniture scanty. Rent 2/9, and clubs 6d. weekly. Relief has been given from All Saints' Ragged School. Parents alcoholic. Children badly clothed.

CASE 40.

Eight in family ; father, mother, and six children, aged 15, 10, 8, 6, 3 years, and 7 months. Wages 26/- weekly. House clean. Furniture very poor. Rent 3/6, and clubs 7d. weekly. Had relief last winter from the Union and All Saints' Ragged School. Children badly dressed. Parents alcoholic. This seems to be a case of underfeeding.

CASE 41.

Three in family ; father, mother, and one child, aged 6 years. Wages 8/- weekly. House clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 3/6 weekly. Child badly clothed. Mother lazy and alcoholic. Neighbours help with food, and the family seem to live from hand to mouth. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 42.

Five in family ; mother and four children, aged 15, 12, 8, and 7 years. Wages 6/-. Rent 3/9 weekly, paid by son-in-law. Daughter gives food. Father away from home and mother alcoholic. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 43.

Five in family ; father, mother, and three children, aged 17, 13, and 8 years. Wages 14/- weekly. House clean. Rent 3/- weekly. Furniture pawned. Children badly dressed ; helped by neighbours. Parents alcoholic. This is a case of underfeeding.

CASE 44.

Ten in family ; father, mother, and eight children, aged 16, 15, 13, 12, 7, 5, 2 years, and 6 months. Wages 33/- weekly. Children badly dressed. Rent 3/3, and clubs 1/6 weekly. Parents alcoholic.

CASE 45.

Four in family ; mother and three children, aged 18, 16, and 10 years. No father. Wages 16s. weekly. Rent 4/6, clubs 7d., and

furniture 2/6 weekly. Had relief last Christmas. House clean. Furniture very good. Mother indifferent. Children badly clothed.

CASE 46.

Five in family; father, mother, and three children, aged 15, 7, and 3 years. Wages indefinite. Rent 3/6 weekly. Had relief. Parents neglectful, and, I believe, intemperate. I suspect underfeeding.

CASE 47.

Four in family; mother and three children, aged 9, 7, and 2 years. No father. Wages indefinite. House clean. Furniture scanty. Rent 4/- weekly. Children badly clothed. Mother indifferent. This seems to be a case of underfeeding.

CASE 48.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 14, 12, 10, 7, and 4 years. Wages 17/- weekly. House fairly clean. Furniture scanty. Children poorly clothed. Rent 3/9 weekly. Parents alcoholic.

CASE 49.

Seven in family; father, mother, and five children, aged 7, 6, 5, 3, and 1 years. Wages 20/- weekly from father, a spinner. House clean. Furniture poor. Rent 2/8, and clubs 9d. weekly. Children clean and fairly well clothed. Father drinks at the week-ends. I suspect underfeeding in this house. A grandmother who lives in this house receives 2/6 weekly from the Union.

Thus in Group III. there appear to be 19 families in which underfeeding is probable. This number represents 56 children from the ages of 3 to 14 years inclusive.

The following table shows an analysis of the above 176 cases which have been described specially, according to ward, number of cases in each ward, average number in family, average number of children in family under the age of 14 years, average wages per head of working members of family, and average outgoings of family per head apart from food and clothes.

WARD.	Number of Cases in each Ward.	Average Number in family.	Average No. of children in family under the age of 14 years.	Average weekly wages per head of working members of the family.	Average weekly outgoings of family per head apart from food and clothes.	REMARKS.
St. Stephen's	7	6	4	9/8	8d.	
Trinity	13	6	4	12/10	10d.	
St. Michael's	1	10	7	13/0	5d.	
St. John's	2	6	3	14/6	7d.	
St. Paul's	12	6	4	12/3	9 ¹ .	
St. Peter's.....	32	6	3	9/10	9d.	
St. Mary's.....	10	6	3	11/2	10d.	
St. Matthew's	21	6	3	10/10	10d.	
St. Thomas'	10	6	4	10/6	9d.	
Park	19	6	4	11/7	9d.	
St. Luke's.....	21	6	4	10/3	9d.	
St. Mark's.....	11	6	4	9/9	9 ¹ .	
St. Andrew's.....	17	6	4	12/7	9d.	
Borough	12	6	4	10/7	8 ¹ .	

SECTION IV.

Conclusions and Observations as applied
to Blackburn.

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It will be noticed that I have taken a liberal estimate of possible cases of underfeeding, as I have included children from the ages of 3 to 14 years inclusive, and as I have also included those cases in which underfeeding is very probable during certain conditions, such as bad weather, etc.

With these limitations, therefore, it appears that there are altogether 97 families in which underfeeding is now taking place, or in which underfeeding is probable under certain conditions.

These 97 families include 313 children from the ages of 3 to 14 years inclusive.

In the return of the attendance at the Blackburn Public Elementary Schools for the month of June, 1905, it will be seen that a total number of 22,952 attended the various departments.

Therefore, even based on the rigorous standard which I have mentioned above, it is probable that not more than 1·3 per cent. of the Blackburn School Children are underfed.

This figure compares very favourably with the other figures which are available.

The various Voluntary Agencies which at present exist in Blackburn for feeding and clothing school children are doing an excellent work, which should receive every possible encouragement.

Apart from these agencies, help is also given in other ways.

I am of opinion that, although there are certain children who require more suitable and sufficient food than they can obtain at present, the question of underfed school children in Blackburn at present is not so acute as to demand direct municipal assistance.

At the same time, however, I think it is desirable that the Education Authority should have information as to the extent of poverty amongst school children, and the existing help given, so that they may have an opportunity of making such suggestions as appear to them to be desirable, and of supervising the organisation generally.

It is important that the elder girl scholars should be taught the preparation and cooking of such meals as are available in a working man's home. This is more important than a knowledge of the preparation of "fancy dishes."

I am sure that considerable waste occurs in many homes through a lack of knowledge as to cheap, nutritious articles of diet, and economical cooking. In other words, "the money might be made to go farther" in some families.

All will agree that underfed children who are in attendance at school are unfitted for lessons either mental or physical. Also, such children are liable to contract sore heads and sore eyes, and are an easy prey to any infectious diseases which are peculiar to school life.

Underfeeding is associated frequently with a dirty condition of the body, and with insufficient clothing, although I have met children who were underfed and yet clean and tidy. Also, a dirty child is a frequent sign of a dirty home.

As will be gathered from the foregoing descriptions of cases, the causes of underfeeding may be divided into those causes which are beyond the power of the parents, and those causes which they can avoid.

Amongst the causes beyond the power of the parents, which transpired during my inquiry, may be mentioned the following:—Ill-health of the father, who is in many cases the only bread-winner. In some cases the father is a cripple, either through accident or disease, and in other cases the father is suffering from diseases such as phthisis, diabetes, heart disease, etc. This condition of affairs, of course, is made worse if there is a large family of young children, and in many cases, where the father's wage is insufficient, the mother is compelled to

earn money either in the mill or by washing. In its turn, this necessitates a lack of supervision over the young children left at home, or the mother has to pay a sum, varying from 4/- to 8/- weekly, to another woman who looks after the children during the absence of the parents. In other cases the father is a spinner, and stated as a cause of non-employment that spinning was more difficult to obtain than formerly. In some homes there is no father, and in others no mother.

In another series of cases the father is an out-door labourer, which involves a risk of loss of wage during severe climatic conditions, and in a large number of homes the wage is not so great as to enable the parents to save a little money for "a rainy day."

I have, however, been impressed by the large number of families who pay weekly sums, varying from 6d. to 2/6, in burial clubs. In some cases it must be a great tax for the family to pay "the weekly club money." Certain families appeared to be paying a higher rent than they could afford, in comparison with others. In a number of cases the parents were unwilling to apply for Poor-Law relief, and others had suffered considerably before asking for such relief. In several instances the parents had denied themselves food rather than the children should be without. The struggles of certain families—some successful, others unsuccessful—to "hold their heads above water" were most praiseworthy.

Many deserving families had received generous help from their neighbours, who were situated more fortunately. In some houses debts had been incurred and the furniture sold.

In many houses there is a brighter prospect, as the children are growing up and reaching the wage-earning age, and whatever may be said either for or against "the half-time system," some families would be in greater need if the "half-timers" were not earning any money. Indeed, the only source of income in some families was derived from the children.

Amongst the causes of underfeeding which are within the control of the parents may be mentioned alcoholism, laziness, indifference, and bad management.

It is obvious that in those families where there is a tendency to poverty, the distress is greater when the parents possess these habits.

I believe that wilful neglect on the part of parents causing under-feeding of the children should be met by very severe measures, such as prosecution.

Any system of feeding needy school children should be so organised that there can be no diminution in the responsibility of the parent, and a most careful inquiry should be made into each case.

On the other hand, the relief of certain cases should not involve a pauperisation of the parents.



